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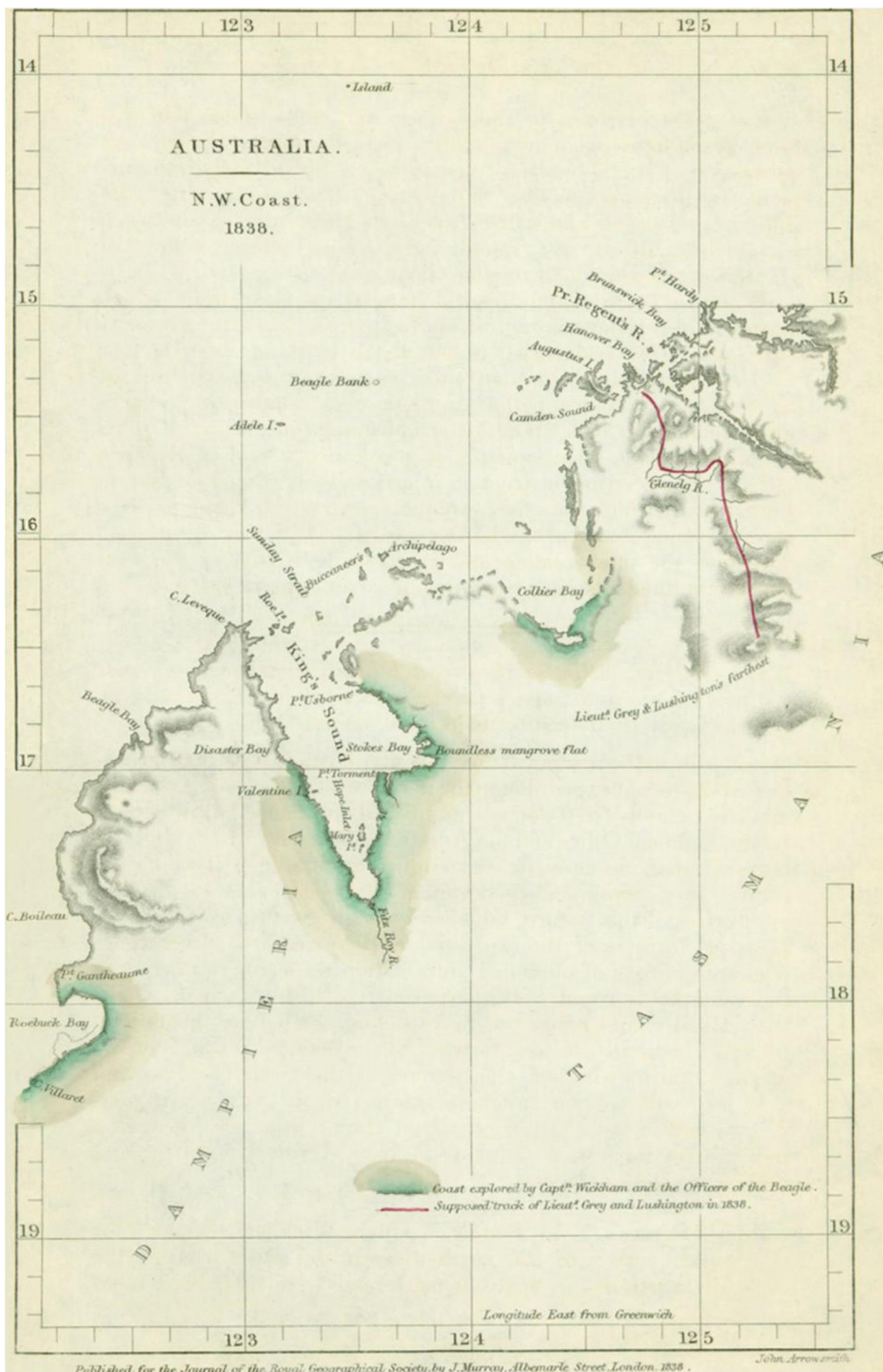
tion of 1600 persons ; of these seven only were white ; and 350 were Mandingos, who inhabited a village before the British took possession of it. Thanks to the active zeal of the Wesleyan missionaries, here are now two chapels, two schools for children, and one for adults, and the natives seem cheerful, orderly, and well-disposed to cultivate the ground, and to apply themselves to learn the various arts in which they are instructed.

When we consider the dreadful state of the slave-trade, which recent inquiries have brought to light, and the absolute necessity that exists, if we really wish to put a stop to it, of inducing the negroes to turn their attention either to cultivating the ground, or to some peaceful occupation, in their own country, we are sanguine enough to look upon this establishment at *Janjan-Buré* as a normal school, where people of nearly every tribe of Western Africa are receiving instruction in arts and civilization, if not in Christianity, which they may eventually carry with them to their several homes, and thereby be the means of diffusing civilization in places the most remote and inaccessible, which for the next century neither missionary nor traveller can hope to visit.

XII.—*A brief outline of the recent Expedition to the North-west Coast of Australia ; under Lieutenants GREY and LUSHINGTON.*
Principally from documents in the Colonial Office.

[IN offering to the readers of the 'Geographical Journal' a brief outline of the recent expedition to the north-western coast of Australia, extracted chiefly from documents liberally furnished to the Society by the Colonial Office and the Admiralty, it is not with the slightest hope of satisfying curiosity, or to anticipate the interest which the public in general, and geographers especially, always feel in enterprizes of this nature, but merely to give such a sketch of the principal features of the expedition as may serve to direct those who are desirous of obtaining information respecting a portion of this remarkable country—hitherto only visited by Tasman, Dampier, Baudin, and King, and never before, we believe, penetrated by any European—to look forward to the detailed journals of the spirited officers who had the conduct of the expedition, assured that they will contain much to interest them, not only in geography and in the light thrown upon the origin of the races who now inhabit this vast island, but in natural history, geology, and other branches of science.]

Her Majesty's Ship *Beagle*, Captain Wickham, destined for the nautical survey of the north-western and other parts of the coast of Australia, on board which vessel were embarked Lieu-



tenants Grey and Lushington, and their party for the land expedition, left England on the 14th of July, and touching at Teneriffe and Bahia in the Brazils, reached the Cape of Good Hope on the 21st of September, 1837. Here the parties separated, as the *Beagle's* orders directed her to Swan River, while the leaders of the land expedition adopted the spirited but hazardous determination of proceeding direct to their destination on the N.W. coast of Australia.

Having freighted the *Lynher*, a schooner of 160 tons, taken on board 50 sheep and goats, and made all the requisite arrangements for the thorough equipment of their party, Messrs. Grey and Lushington quitted the Cape on the 20th of October, and on the 3rd of December reached Hanover Bay, at the outlet of Prince Regent's River, in lat. $15^{\circ} 20'$ south, long. $124^{\circ} 40'$ east.

Here having landed and pitched their tents in a beautiful valley now for the first time trodden by European feet, and having formally taken possession of this part of the country in the name of her Majesty, the schooner, under charge of Mr. Lushington, was despatched to Coepang, in the island of Timor, distant about 300 miles to the north, to embark ponies, of which six-and-twenty were obtained, at the rate of about two pounds each, chiefly in exchange for muskets and powder.

During the vessel's absence Mr. Grey and his party examined the country in the immediate vicinity of their camp—and explored a small stream which watered the valley, for about five miles to the southward, where it separated into two branches; one of which is little more than a mountain torrent; the other a much more considerable stream, winding through a deep and narrow valley: the soil brought down by it was rich and good, and therefore it was probably the drain of a considerable tract of fertile country.

The country generally as viewed from the sea, promises well, but upon landing the first appearance is monotonous and steril; being composed of rocky hills of sandstone about 300 feet in height, covered with brushwood and prickly grass; but between these hills are beautiful vallies, the soil of which is fertile, and where fresh water may always be found. Although at this time, from prudential motives, no communication was held with the natives, still their huts were visited, and found to consist of a conical frame-work of wood, about 4 feet high and 10 feet in diameter at the base, and were upon the whole well and neatly made. The natives were evidently in possession of sharp-cutting instruments, and many large trees were seen with notches or steps cut in them, by means of which they ascend for the purpose of stripping off the bark, which furnishes them with all the clothes they need in this fine climate—the hatchets may probably be of stone. The principal food of the natives would seem to be here, as in other parts of this land, kangaroo and shell-fish, as the remains

of them were found near their fires, and both of them are abundant.

On the return of Lieutenant Lushington from Timor with the ponies and other necessities, on the 20th of January, 1838, the party commenced their preparations for their immediate departure; and on the 1st of February quitted their encampment at Hanover Bay for the interior. The party consisted of 12 persons, including besides the leaders of the expedition, Mr. Walker, as surgeon and naturalist, two sailors, three men of the corps of sappers and miners, &c., with their ponies laden with instruments, provisions, and baggage, and followed by part of their flock of sheep and goats. They proceeded first about 15 miles in a nearly due south direction, until they had reached the parallel of $15^{\circ} 29'$ S. lat. The whole of the country lying between this point and Hanover Bay was composed of ridges of sandstone, of no great elevation, but intersected by deep ravines; their progress was consequently slow and toilsome, for they had to construct paths for the horses to travel upon before they were able to move from one encampment to the next spot where they intended to halt. In this first part of the journey they also lost many horses; indeed all of them suffered more or less from it.

After passing the parallel of $15^{\circ} 29'$ S. they entered upon a very rich tract of country, that even surpassed in fertility that small portion of the Brazils which they had had an opportunity of seeing. A large expanse of water having been seen a little to the west of south, they were induced to pursue that direction, and still found the country to be of the same rich and luxuriant character. Upon attaining the parallel of $15^{\circ} 43'$ S. lat., and $124^{\circ} 44'$ E. long., they found themselves upon the banks of a very considerable river, which Lieutenant Grey named Glenelg River, in testimony of the obligations which he and the whole expedition were under to the Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The river was at this point salt; and as, from its magnitude and rapid current, no possibility existed of crossing it, they were obliged to travel up its banks in a north-easterly direction—their progress being much impeded by the number of tributary streams which poured into it, many of these being of such a size and depth, owing to their running through a low country, that they were in the same manner obliged to travel for several miles up their banks, before they could get an opportunity of crossing them.

The luxuriance of the vegetation also much impeded their progress; so that, although their horses again began to thrive from the goodness of the grass, their advance was still slow and difficult.

The river first became perfectly fresh at a point situated in $15^{\circ} 41'$ S. lat., and $124^{\circ} 53'$ E. long. Beyond this point it would not be navigable for large vessels; for a series of rapids occur

here, so that a portage must necessarily be established: immediately below this point a shoal of porpoises was seen.

From hence they still continued their course to the eastward, in the direction of the river, but at some distance from it, until they arrived at a point situated in $15^{\circ} 41' 50''$ S. lat., and $124^{\circ} 59'$ E. long. The river was here quite fresh, running at the rate of rather more than 5 knots an hour. Its banks were composed of fine white sand; and even close to the bank it was $2\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms in depth.

On the other side of the river the country hereabouts appeared to be low and marshy; and a remarkable circumstance was observed, namely, that drift-wood, weeds, &c. were lodged in the forked branches of trees at least 15 feet above their heads when they stood upon the banks of the river: extensive inundations must therefore sometimes take place, and at these periods there is little doubt that the whole of the low country to the south is flooded.

A very large tributary stream here joined the river, which they could not cross, as it ran through a low and marshy country; and they were again obliged to turn off to the northward. After following its course for about eight miles through a marshy and almost impassable country, they succeeded in crossing it, but still experienced great difficulty in travelling upon the other side of it; for owing to the heavy rains which had lately fallen, the marshes were almost impassable.

Lieut. Grey here remarks that these heavy rains, which were of several days' continuance, had but very little effect upon the main river, and would by no means account for the signs of inundation which they there saw. This is a remarkable fact, and, viewed in connexion with some others, bears materially upon the physical geography of the country.

In $15^{\circ} 49'$ S. lat., and $125^{\circ} 6'$ E. long., they crossed another very considerable stream, which ran in the direction of Glenelg river. This was the largest tributary stream seen flowing down to it.

The next point at which they saw the river was in $15^{\circ} 56'$ S. lat., and in $125^{\circ} 8'$ E. long.; it was here 250 yards wide, but again formed a series of rapids; and they found a ford just above these, the average depth of which was not more than 3 feet. The soil on its banks was still good: the bed of the river at this point trended away to the eastward.

Only 12 ponies now surviving out of the 26 which had arrived from Timor, it was deemed prudent no longer to follow the course of this river; but Lieut. Grey resolved to push on with as much dispatch as possible in the direction of the great opening behind Dampier's Land; for although it was evident that from want of provisions they would soon be compelled to return to Hanover

Bay, he conceived it absolutely necessary that the part of the country above alluded to should be examined.

After crossing the river, the country again changed its character, the soil becoming sandy, and they began the ascent of a chain of hills running from S.E. to N.W. They continued this gradual ascent for three days, and then found themselves at a point situated in $16^{\circ} 3' \text{ S. lat. and } 125^{\circ} 13' 30' \text{ E. long.}$: they were now nearly at the summit of the part of the range that they were on, but to the S.E., south, and S.W. they could see nothing but inaccessible precipices.

Several days were occupied in trying to find a pass by which the horses might proceed over the mountains, but none such could be found; they, therefore, resolved to proceed with a small party to examine the country to the south of their present position.

At this time Mr. Grey's wound in the hip, which he received from the spear of a native at the outset of his journey, became so painful, that the surgeon positively forbade his proceeding a step farther. A detached party, therefore, started under the command of Mr. Lushington, and attained a point situated in about $16^{\circ} 30' \text{ S. lat. and } 125^{\circ} 15' \text{ E. long.}$; the result of their *reconnaissance* was, that in all probability, no large river could exist immediately to the south.

As any further attempt to proceed in that direction appeared then to be useless, and as the party were compelled to return to Hanover Bay from want of provisions, they resolved to make for this point by a route different to that which they had already traversed, and thus fully to complete the exploration of this portion of the country.

On arriving at Hanover Bay, on the 15th March, they had the unexpected pleasure of meeting with Captain Wickham, R.N., in command of H.M.S. *Beagle*, who had, after a careful examination of the coast, arrived at the same conclusion, viz., that no large river could exist between the one that they had discovered, and *Fitzroy River*, which he had discovered at the south part of the great opening behind Dampier's Land.

These rivers, although of considerable magnitude, are still utterly insufficient to account for the drainage of this vast continent, and this interesting question, instead of being at all placed in a clearer point of view by the united exertions of these two expeditions is, if possible, at this moment involved in deeper obscurity and mystery than ever.

In the course of the journey Messrs. Grey and Lushington found a great many curious native paintings in caves, executed in a surprising way for a savage race. In these caves were some

drawings of the human hand, which showed great knowledge of the art of producing effect: they selected a rock in the most gloomy part of the cave, and the hand must have been placed upon this rock and some white powder dashed against it. When the hand was removed, a sort of stamp was left upon the rock; the hand was then painted black and the rock about it quite white, so that on entering that part of the cave, it appeared as if a human hand and arm were projecting through a crevice, admitting light. Many of the figures in these drawings were clothed, though the natives themselves were in a perfect state of nature. These and other circumstances would countenance the belief that they are a race of Asiatic origin; indeed, Lieut. Grey expresses his conviction that the mass of evidence he has collected on this point will enable him to prove it.*

These caves and paintings were all far inland, and nothing of the kind was near the coast. Copies were also obtained of some of the drawings by the natives living on the coast, but these are said to be the productions of a quite distinct race.

Before quitting Hanover Bay the party had the gratification of seeing the bread-fruit and cocoa-nut trees which they had brought from Timor, and planted in the valley, as well as numerous seeds from the Brazils and the Cape of Good Hope, in a most flourishing state. They had also introduced and left there several animals, as ponies, goats, and sheep, and in short done everything in their power to make their visit a blessing to the natives and to the country.

On the 30th April the *Lynher* sailed for the Mauritius, whence Mr. Grey's letter is dated on the 2nd June, at which time, it is highly satisfactory to add, he had quite recovered the effects of his wound, and contemplated returning to a more southern portion of the same coast of Australia. Lieutenant, now, we are happy to say, Captain Lushington, has arrived in England, and it is gratifying to hear the distinct testimony he bears to the zeal and energy displayed by Lieutenant Grey, even when suffering from the effects of a wound and a tropical temperature, in his anxiety to carry into execution the expedition entrusted to his charge.

* Colonel Fox's letter.
